The Writing Schoolemaster:-
Or
The Anatomy of Faire Writing. Wherein is exactlie expressed
A Severall Character, Together with other Rules and Documents
coincident to the Art of faire & speedy writing. 1633

By Io. Davies of Hereford.

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or

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By Jo: Dauies of Heref.

Viuit post funera virtus

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LONDON
Printed and are to be sould by James Maud at the Vnicorne neare the Exchange.
1648

John Davies
London 1648

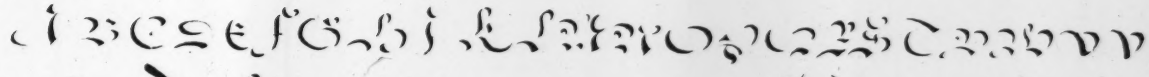
Reflex my verie hartie commendations. Whereas yo^u
had communication with mee concerninge yor lande
out of Essex concerninge that businesse is unhap-
pilie compounded unto Mathewe Boxonne[x] yor
ofspringe-man who is verie willing to deale w^th
you upon any reasonable termes, and hee yor kinsman

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z.
a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. w. x. y. z. &c.

John Davies of Hereford

My loving and most loving Lord give mee continuall
perseuerance in this meane and I will exercise myself
in the three waies of this commandements; and my
loving mayes will I never bee wanting of. I.
Kane thozen the immanitate way of this upright
commandements, continue mee therein ever &c.

Mary Davis



vne mote matie, or in anie manner immoderatlie
taken impaireth manes memorie, contamminateth his
mind & maneres with manie positions, poureth into
the imaginative powre of the Soule innumerable vi
tious opinions, and bringeth foorth sluggishnesse &c.

A.a.b.c.d.e.f.g.h.i.k.l.m.n.o.p.q.r.s.t.v.u.w.y.z. &c.

o all true xpian people to whome this ꝑsent writing or Instrument shall come I Emmanuell Beaumonte of Langford in the countie of Northamptone Esquier do by these ꝑsentes send greting in our Lord god everlasting know all that my Name or Surnam

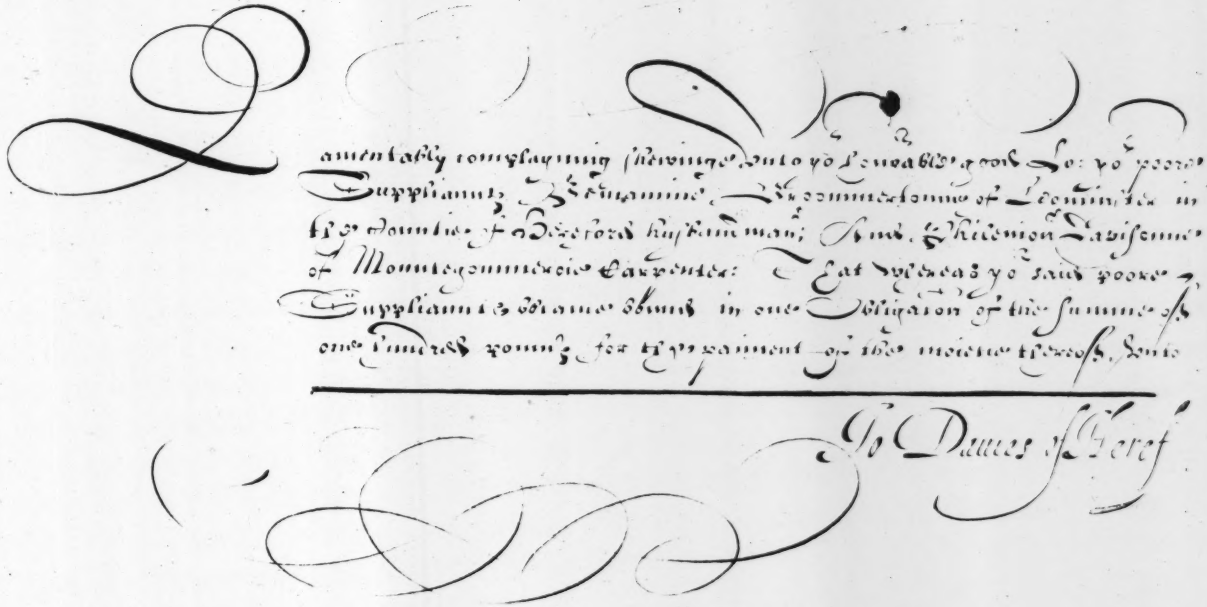
A a b c d e f ff g gg h i k l m n o p q r s ſ t p u w x y z &

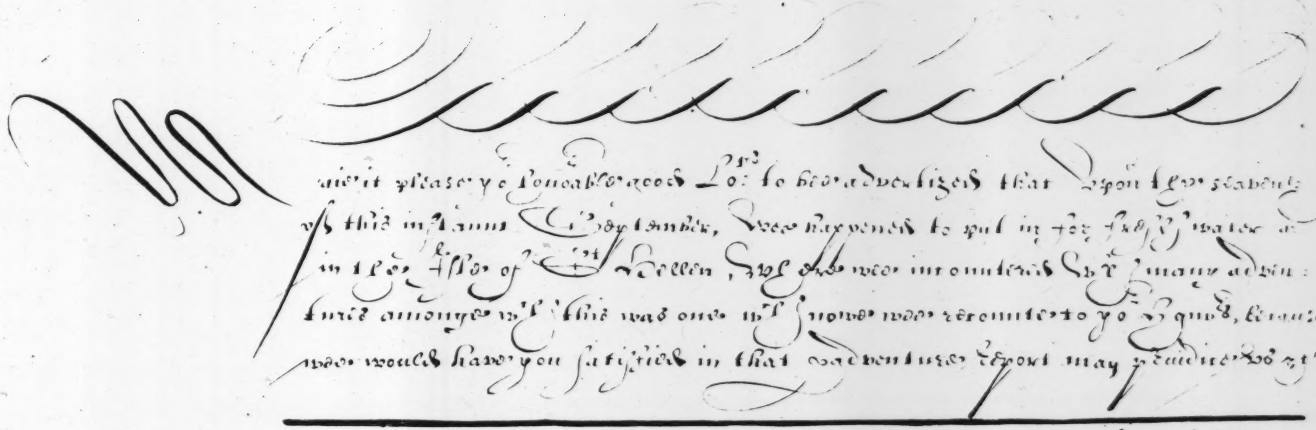
Noverint universi per presentes nos Johannem Beconnonut de Mamwell-lane & Humfridum Meeminglowne de Mamwell-gammage in comitatu Herefordie generosum teneri et firmiter obligari Edmundo Wromwertonne de Nimminge in rom predicto generoso in centum mercis bone & legalis monete Anglie solvend eidem Edmundo aut suo certo Attornato heredibus executoribus vel assignatis suis Ad quam quidem solucionem bene & fideliter faciend Obligamus nos &

Jo: Davies of Hereford.

A B C D E ff G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z

10





Jo: Davies of Hereford.

May it please yor good Lo: to see directed, that wee have ordering to ye Comis-
ptrolls or Commandement appointed these towards yeares herein nominated.
and have w^t wee possible diligence conveyed them to be sent in the Exchequer
Cooke for ye County of Northumberland, &c. to bee mencioned by yor
Honors of yor Lo: &c. wee have also an eye to ordering to ye trust in us re-
posed; and when wee understand ye further pleasure concerning them wee
intend to attend accordingly. So wee humbly take o^r leaves. Decr 7 o^r 21

To the Honble Sir [illegible]

14

It is a most commendable & conuenient
thing to build the
pen for the best
aduantage of
grace of
example

Jo: Davis scrip: Fran. Hyssenram
sculp.

London 1648

John Davies of Hereford

Before I was humbled, I committed sinne and demeaned my selfe verie much amisse: but since ô omnipotent creator of all things I haue kept thie commaundementes; the obseruation whereof bringeth with it immortall reuards. Make mee therefore obedient to thine immaculate commaundements, my daiely studie.

A. a. a. b. b. c. c. d. d. e. e. e. f. ff. g. gg. h. h. i. k. k. l. m. n. o. p. p. que. q. r. r. s. ss. st. t. tt. v. u. w. w. x. x. y. yo. z. z.

Jo. Da.

D.

I haue chosen the cleane and most immaculate waie of thie commaundements; I haue not forgotten thy testimonies. Remoue from mee the waie of iniquitie; and according to thie commaundementes direct thou mee. Pleade thou my cause ô omnipotent Iehoua: for manie are mine enemies, ô Lord, thou knowest.

Io: Dauies.

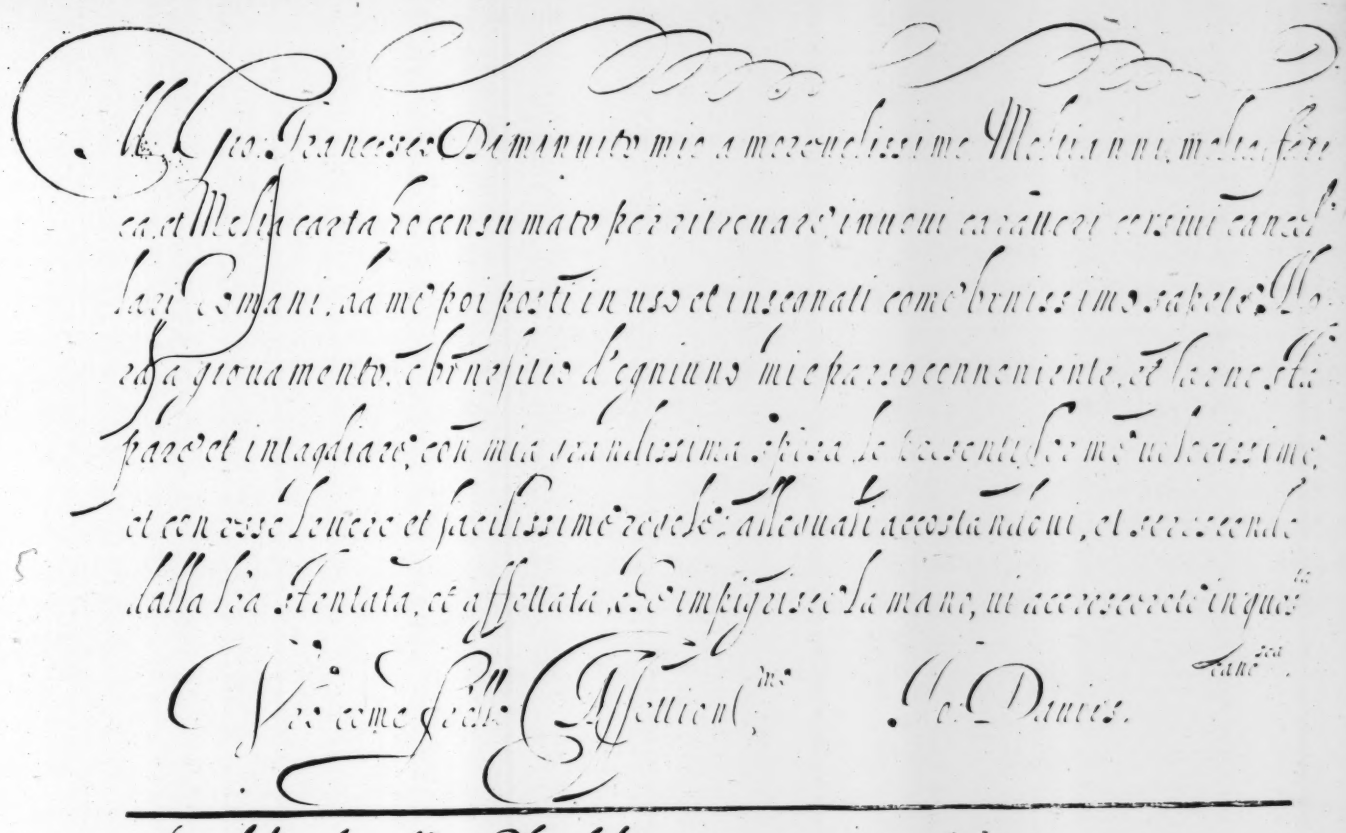
The honor due vnto parents, is none otherwise to bee vnderstanded, but to iudge commendablie, reuerentlie, & honorablie of our parents; and to esteeme well of all their doings, not onelie as of elders, but principallie, because they bee parents whome god vsed as instrumets to bring vs to this transitorie beeing wherein we haue

---

Io. Dauies of Heref.

Innumerable are the
greivances, and incumbrances
which every moment of tyme
do accompany this fraile life.

A, a, a, b, b, c, c, d, d, e, e, f, f, g, g, h, h,
i, k, k, l, ll, m, m, n, o, o, p, p, q, q, r, s,
s, ſ, t, t, v, u, w, w, v, v, y, y, ȝ, ȝc.



James Mennington your seruaunte: Tho.s Beemmount and Ferdinando Gen meeson came immediatlie upon the receipt of Mr. Mountgommeries lres, to demaunde the money wch I gaue mine Ernest not-yet-imbeached word for; he hath sent the moitie of your summe; and I haue made out the other moitie

Jo: Davies of Hereford.

If th' almightie graunt the victorie and thine enemy
be his saueguard shunne the flight to some
place impregnable, as it were in no wise, saue the
prudent martialist permitt thou him to rest; but
immediatlie assault with edis in moderate
feare; lest permitting him, he gather head against

Iohn Dauies of Hereford

Preserue me o immaculate and immortall Jesous
in walking in ye waie of yi commaundementes wch is
the waie that continuallie conduets to semiterne
blessednesse and immortall happinesse. Make
mee to runne in the vncontaminated path of thie ever
most glorious commaundements, and rigteous precepts.

A a a a a B b b b b C c c c c D d d d d E e e e e F f f f f
G g g g g H h h h h I i i i i K k k k k L l l l l M m m m m N
N n n n n O o o o o P p p p p Q q q q q R r r r r S s s s s T
t t t t t V v v v v W w w w w Y y y y y Z z z z

Jacobus dei gra Anglie Scotie ffrancie z hibnie rex fidei defensor &c Vir ygd' dattm sibi principat qd ~ attinctis pernum Gemmont Armigrum qtm qd cum hereditatum nob in Cancellar Dnra in Quinden ste &c

Ouyht. thynge comme vnto ony mannes handes / he / or ony mesanger enoye ye shalle
[illegible] sende vnto thomsen nowelstone and the lytle Cambrygshyre in thys halle
[illegible] antonne hughson in thys inne wythe ye [illegible] pnde wasshen
[illegible] Jacobus dowglas duyke Otwas [illegible] Jhone Cock [illegible]

The Writing Schoole-Maſter

OR

The Anatomy of faire Writing.

Wherein is exactly expreſſed each ſeverall Character: Together with the Rules and Documents, co incident to the Art of faire and ſpeedy Writing.

SInce the Rules of the Faculty of faire Writing do not, nor ever can profit till they be put in practiſe; I have thought good for the well employing of my Talent, aſwell for the inſtruction and helpe of thoſe that by their owne endeavours without Teachers, would attaine ſome perfection; as alſo for the eaſe of Writing Schoole-Maſters, who of neceſſity muſt know them, if ſpeedily they will learne their Schollers to write.

To ſuch then it ſhall bee expedient, to will the Scholler to write two or three words in his preſence, thereby to ſee the apt or

unapt disposition of his hand, and how he holds his pen.

The next thing the Teacher is to doe, it is to rectifie his Schollers holding of his pen; which is to place his thumbe on the side of the pen next his brest highest of all, The fore-finger next, place upon the top of the pen extended downeward, flat a little beneath the thumbe: and lastly, the middle finger on the furthest side of the pen lowest of all: The two fingers being in a manner extended to their uttermost length, the Thumbe only rising in the joynt, which if it be bowed in, impossible it is, that that hand should write faire or fast.

The next care must be, to see the Schollers setting of his body, and how he should sit to write: Namely, with his breast from the board or deske whereat he writes: to hold his head upright, to looke straight, his arme laid right forth on the paper: That is, his elbow to be even with the end of the midst of the sheete of the paper, which paper must lie as neere to the midst of his body, as the straight holding out of his arme will permit it.

Then to teach him to take up his Inke (with the hollow side of his pen downeward) sparingly, and not too plentifully: for being too full, he shall never write cleane;

When the Master hath thus done, hee shall take a small paire of compasses, and rule a side of paper with the same, the Compasses being set of the depth of his writing, making a double line: let the Scholler or beginner make his letters betweene these two lines, to keepe them even at head and foote; for this is most easie to be understood of the Learner, when the Teacher shall say, put up such a stroke, slope or upright above the upper line: or so much slope or downeward beneath the lower line, to make such or such a letter: where if there were not the like lines, hardly could be the like demonstration given.

Then teach him to know the termes or words of Art, which you use in teaching. To wit, your slope or down-right parrellell strokes, that is, strokes equidistant, your Traverse stroke, that is, a Crosse stroke, or the stroke through the *t f k* and *g*: your waved stroke, as that in the *Roman L.* your Stem, as that in the length of the *l b k &c.* Your Bell, as the bolts

in

in the tops of the *Roman* or *Italian* hands; your Thred, as the joyning ſmall ſtroke that unites words. Your Equidiſtances (which is the geometriall proportion of faire writing) and the like, ere you proceede in further inſtruction, that he may underſtand you, as you go forward: elſe theſe and the like termes will perplex his underſtanding by the way, and ſo hinder his proceeding.

Foure letters, and no more ſhould the Maſter teach his Scholler in a day, although hee be ſuch a one as hath a moſt tractable hand: to the end to lay a moſt ſure foundation, and get the firmer habit in making them: Which foure letters let the Maſter make in the preſence of his Scholler, twice or thrice leaſurely: and peece after peece, ſhewing him the effects of the pen, and how and when to apply the ſide or ful mouth therof in the forming of thoſe Letters. And if the Scholler in his imitation miſſe his direction, then to ſhew him wherein and in what joynt he hath erred, and if yet he miſſe in following that demonſtration, let him often goe over the letters with a dry pen, the better to acquaint his hand with their ſhape and draught.

The Maſter may alſo with a plummet of lead, or any other thing (made ſomwhat ſharpē at the point) faſhion out the letters, and cauſe the Learner to goe over them with his wet pen, untill he ſhall come to ſome facility in making them truely.

The pen muſt agree with the paper: for paper Royall, or demy paper, or any paper that hath a hard and croſſe graine, muſt have a pen full hard and dry.

When you ſhould write faſt on fine paper, your pen ſhould be ſomewhat ſmall, yet very dry, being made of the ſecond or third in the wing.

To young Children whoſe hands are weake, give a ſmall pen made of a ſoft quill: For the hard pen, naturally cauſeth the hand to runne with difficulty, and therefore moſt unfit for a faſt hand:

Your Body ſet, your paper put, and your pen held as before is ſaid, you ſhall make your letters according to the Coppies in this booke, joyning one letter with another with light

and nimble pulſe,having a ſpēciall ēyē to thē laſt ſyllable which you have made, to the end to match it in evenneſſe,fulneſſe or leanneſſe,and ſo to unite ſyllable after ſyllable, & word after word,as may be moſt gracefull to the eye; having alwaies great regard to the laſt letters both of ſyllables and words,that ſo they which are to follow, may be uniforme,which will make the hand ſhew faire,though the letters be not ſo exactly made.

Now the ſpace betweene each letter,ſhall be according to the matter that is to be written: for in a Petition or any other thing of that nature, you ſhall write ſmall, and ſet your letters as cloſe together as poſſible you can, thereby to enclude much matter in few lines. But in an Evidence or Indenture,you ſhall write full, and ſet the letters much more wide, one from another,becauſe it beſt becomes a deede of Continuance.

In wide lines, the writing doth ſooneſt diſcover the goodneſſe or badneſſe of it ſelfe. And in ſuch lines it is moſt gracefull to make long ſtemmes and tailes to your letters, ſo as they touch not one the other,for that onely ſhewes the freeneſſe of the hand.

Moreover,as it is no great furtherance to them that do but as yet learne to write,to write Dictates or Tranſcripts of pleadings with a diſordeerly faſtneſſe So to him that hath gotten an habit of a faſt hand already, it reſignes it more and more, making it thereby the more bold,ready and ſpritly, for oftentimes we may ſee fall from the hand of ſuch a faſt writer paſſing gracefull,and ſpritly letters, ſith they are made with a light, nimble and ready pulſe. The contrary whereof is ever ſeene to proceede from thoſe Teachers,and Schollers, that onely write ſlow ſet hands,who uſing to write leaſurely, doe when they ſhould write with expedition,finde their hands ſo unruly, wild and unſtayed, that they are not at their owne command. But what goe I about utterly to take away the ſet ſlow hand, Farre be it from me,for too well I know how gracefull and expedient it is, in Ingroſements of all kindes ſo to doe.

There are many Impoſters that undertake to teach perfectly in two and twenty houres, or a month at moſt,themſelves not able to judge of, much leſſe to performe good writing.

Alas,

Alas, who ſeeth not how fraudfull theſe men are, and injurious as well to other Teachers, as to the Common-wealth.

I have added much time and diligence to touch the ground of faire Writing, having all the beſt writers, and moſt exquiſite Maſter peece (as it were) of this age and of all Nations, to further my deſires and Mother-wit (I thanke God for it) not reſiſting me therein, yet will I not undertake (hand over head as they do) to teach perfectly in that time trebled.

Writing indeed of all other manuall qualities is the moſt difficult, neceſſary, and excellent: for in the Art of Limming, painting, Clocking, Graving and the like; if they miſſe of wheeles, draughts, limmes and ſtrokes, which they deſire to make that are profeſſors of them, they may mend them againe with a ſecond correction ere they finally doe them. But exquiſite writing is ſo peremptory, that if at firſt it be miſt, it is not to be amended, but rather continue in their ignorance, then be made more cunning by a better teacher.

There is no kingdome but ours that have any more hands in ordinary uſe as their naturall hand, but one or at leaſt by that one all may eaſily bee knowne, as well there, as elſewhere in Chriſtendome: but ours hath (well neere) as many hands as courts of Record, and they ſo ſtrange and different too, that very few of our own people know or can read them, inſomuch that a great Earle of this Land deſired me to write him an Alphabet of the Court hand, that ſo he might thereby (as with a key) open the locke of that hand, wherein many of his Evidences were written, to reade them with more eaſe: for he ſaid, they were Egyptian Hierogliphickes to him, as indeed they are to moſt of our Engliſh men, though otherwiſe good Schollers, much more to ſtrangers. And theſe hands are ſo uncertaine in their forme, beſides that, no two Clarkes ſcarce agree in opinion, which is the right ſhape of many letters: So that ſo many hands, ſo many faſhions of one and the ſame hand (for example the Court hand for one) wherein ſcarce two Clarks agree in one opinion, which is the proper ſhape of many Letters: but it skils not greatly whether they do or no, for it is not much leſſe the Checker, Pipe-office, and I wot not what hand, worth the name of a hand,

becauſe the very nature of it and them, are to be written gently and cleanely, in reſpect of our Secretary, Italian, Romane, French, Dutch, and other national hands of Chriſtendome. Yet thoſe Clarks that know my skill therein, do greatly flatter and deceive me, but by their teſtimony I write it more naturally then ever they knew teacher: Howbeit I owe ſo much love and duty to truth, that I can with her allowance give this hand, nor the reſt excepted againſt, no right hand of fellowſhip among any of the ſaid nationall hands, no nor ſo much as ſuffer them to come in their preſence, for too much diſgracing the more beautifull hand of mine owne Country: for among them (the Pipe office hand eſpecially) they would looke like beares not yet lickt into faſhion, among deere growne to their greateſt beauty. But as it pleaſeth the kingdome for reaſon of ſtate, or ſome other beſt known to the chiefe governours thereof to continue the common Law of the Land, in that tongue which the Norman conquerour impoſed on it and them diſtinct from the mother tongue of the Nation: So doe they alſo permit and maintaine, (well neere) all the ſeverall grand-offices belonging to thoſe lawes, to uſe variety of hands: where with not onely the Commons and unlearned people, but moſt of the learned (as I ſaid) of that nation, are altogether unacquainted.

In this worke are divers coppies of diſtinct formes of characters, yet all of them now commonly uſed here at this day: for ſuch as will learne to write neatly and expediently without a maſter, I would adviſe them to practiſe the letters (*fac ſimile*) nine or ten dayes together, and often to goe over them with a dry pen, to acquaint their hand with their ſhape; and albeit it ſeeme ſomewhat tedious to them to goe over them ſo, yet the profit which they ſhall ſoone finde in their practiſe, will exceede their paine; afterwards they may joyne them together, and imitate the coppies of joyned hands which they beſt fancy, or as ſhall be moſt uſefull for them: yet take theſe general rules with you, which may both helpe ſome teachers, & all learners, and may be eaſily conceived, and borne in memory, *viz.*

All letters that have any compaſſes, and containe any whites within them (as, *a d e g o ſ*,

o s,&c.)or *a b d g q o*,&c. muſt be of one bigneſſe, and ſo of other hands whatſoever.

All letters that have any ſtems or heads above the upper line before ſpoken of,(as *b h k l f ſt* &c.)or (*b h f k l ſt* &c.)muſt be of one height.

All letters that have any tailes ſtraight or reverſed beneath the lines, (as *g h f y*,or *f p q ſ y*,&c.)muſt be of one deph.

The letters muſt not be too fat or too leane(that is too ful or too ſlender)for their depth, for the firſt makes them looke like dwarfes,all belly; and the laſt like long leane ſtarvelings,without fleſh or belly.

Thrice the breadth of the maſter-ſtroke of the minnum in the ſet ſecretary hand ſhould be his dep.h: and ſo of the text hand,baſtard or ſet, as alſo of the court hand, chancery, &c.

In the ngliſh ſet ſecretary hand,likewiſe the blacke or maſter-ſtrokes of theſe letters *b f h k l t ſ*,&c. muſt be twice as full as the maſter-ſtroke of the minnum. The ſame is to be obſerved alſo in the court hand.

The letters muſt be kept even at foote and at head, and ſtand equi-diſtant, a ſmall o's ſpace being left betweene each word.

In theſe rules conſiſt the geometriall proportion of faire and exact writing, in the Engliſh ſet ſecretary hand, and who ſo obſerves them, ſhall make this hand inchant the eye of the beholder with exceeding delight: for(*nolens volens*)it will dote on the ſeldome ſeene beauty thereof.

FINIS.

2.13 op 281

WRITING AND DRAWING.

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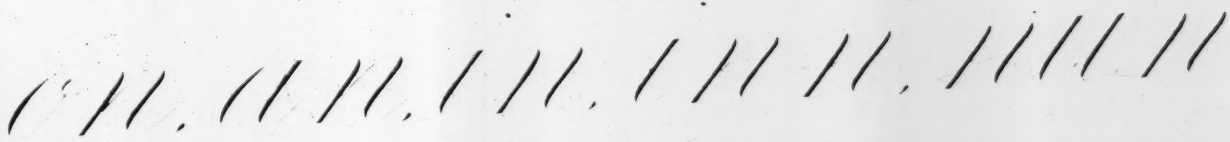

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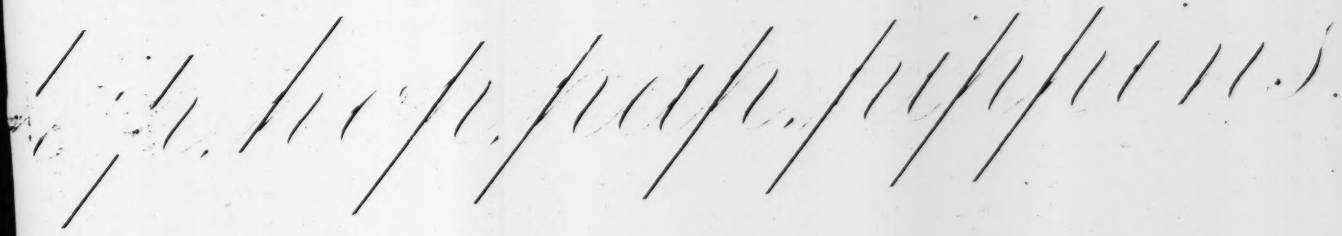

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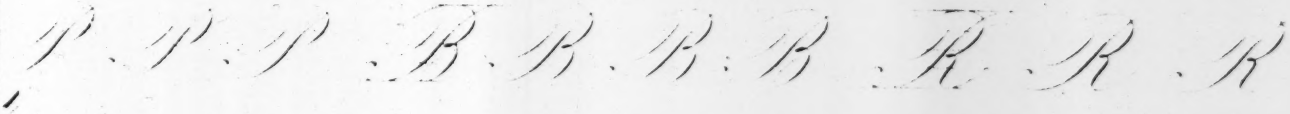

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